



Utopia Film Festival, p.12



Tugwell Pub at Crowne Plaza, p.8

Springhill Lake Elementary Earns National Award

by Amy Hansen



PHOTO COURTESY PGCHS

Springhill Lake Elementary School faculty and staff

At the beginning of December, Springhill Lake Elementary School received one of 100 national awards for schools that achieved exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years and excellence in serving English learners.

“In the heart of a pandemic, they have managed to do really well,” said Jeri Erickson, membership director at the National Association of Elementary and Secondary Education Act State Program Administrators (NAESPA), the organization that administers the award. Erickson said

Springhill Lake was nominated by the Maryland State Department of Education.

NAESPA’s history is attached to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, about which President Lyndon Johnson said, “full educational opportunity” should be “our first national goal.” The organization itself “is dedicated to building the capacity of education professionals to provide disadvantaged children with a high-quality education,” according to the NAESPA website.

Erickson said the school will show a video at the NAESPA convention in February. Principal Trena Wilson will also receive a banner for the school and buttons and certificates for the teachers and staff.

City Council Responds to State Transportation Plan, Parking Lot

by Diane Oberg

At a relatively short meeting on November 22, the Greenbelt City Council approved comments on the state’s draft Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP), cleared the way for awarding a contract for the reconstruction of Buddy Attick Park’s parking lot at the next meeting, and accepted several citizen petitions and requests. The published agenda indicated that council would discuss appealing the Bureau of Engraving and Printing decision to build a facility on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, but that item was removed at the request of Councilmember Rodney Roberts.

Transportation

Council unanimously approved a letter to the Maryland Secretary of Transportation containing the city’s comments on the

draft Consolidated Transportation Program, which allocates \$16.1 million for Fiscal Year 2022 for the maglev project and states that planning activities are underway. The city conveys its continuing strong opposition to this project which the Federal Railroad Administration has “paused” for review.

In its letter, the city conveys its strong support for the design funding included for the full Beltway interchange at the Greenbelt Metro Station. Currently, only traffic to and from the west can enter the station directly from the Beltway. However, the city does convey its disappointment that the Greenbelt Road streetscape project is still on hold, as it has been since 2002,

See **COUNCIL**, page 11

Ad Rate Notice

Effective January 1, 2022 the advertising rates will increase approximately 6 percent. This is the first increase since 2020 and is needed to offset increased costs.

The base price for display ads will increase to \$10.60.

The nonprofit rate will increase to \$7.40.

Volume discounts are also available. The full rate structure is available at greenbeltnewsreview.com.

What Goes On

Monday, December 13
8 p.m. City Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 14
7 p.m. Greenbelt Police Public Forum, Greenbriar (Greenbriar residents only)
Wednesday, December 15
8 p.m. Council Worksession: GHI/WSSC
Thursday, December 16
7 p.m. Greenbelt Police Public Forum, Municipal Building

All meetings are virtual unless otherwise noted. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

Artists Tell of Their Works At the Art and Craft Fair

by Matt Levis

Local artists and craftsmen displayed and sold their work in the annual Juried Art and Craft Show located in the Community Center and Youth Center this past weekend, December 4 and 5.

Artists across multiple disciplines gathered to show the Greenbelt community their skills and passion portrayed in their work. Vendors sold pieces from jewelry to paintings and even some edible artwork. Artists were happy to discuss their work with eager shoppers.

Tina Van Pelt of Profusions of Glass brought a large display of handmade glass pendants, each with its own story. She started

selling glass at the Juried Art and Craft show 15 years ago. Van Pelt began making glass after she gave birth to her third child and wanted an activity to get her out of the house. After classes in bead making and infused glass making, Van Pelt was hooked and since 2017, when she left her job at the federal government, glass has been her life.

Van Pelt featured pendant flags, specifically LGBTQ flags and other pride flags. “My youngest child came out as trans recently, so I wanted to support him. I designed these trans pendants

See **CRAFT**, page 6



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

Pragati Godbole sells her hand-painted bottles and pots.

Renovated Granite Building: Style, Proximity and Profit

by Cathie Meetre

On Friday, December 3 and Sunday, December 5 the newly renovated Granite Building in the Roosevelt Center celebrated its opening with a reception and an open house, respectively. The partnership of Kim Kash and Michael Cooney, David and Michael Frauenheim, and Brandon and Taylor Cole celebrated many months of hard work and vision with their guests: the building’s new tenants, family and friends, some of whom had been patients of Dr. David Granite, the building’s previous owner, and his partners (and before that, Drs. Til Bergemann and Hans Wodak) in the past during their many years of practice there.

At the open house on Decem-

ber 5, visitors and tenants commented favorably on the renovation. Tenant Sarah Liska, broker for Freedom Realty and a former patient there as a teenager, commented that the renovations paid tribute to the nostalgic history of the building, but with a completely fresh and modern twist. “The white walls and recessed lighting help tremendously,” she said. “The glass wall to the conference room allows natural light to enter there too. Each office has windows facing the landmarks surrounding the building, which is nice, because the original paneling obscured the wonderful surroundings.” She was

See **GRANITE**, page 12



PHOTO BY JODI COHEN

Karen Knee lights a Hanukkah menorah while Rabbi Saul Oresky and other Karp Family School parents and students look on. See story, page 7.

Letters to the Editor

The New Deal Is Back

My husband and I had a delicious meal this evening, December 6, at the New Deal Café. The food was delicious (as always). I had salmon and sweet potatoes and Bill had spare ribs and potato salad. They were served on china plates and the silverware

was regular silverware – no more plastic and paper. The menu had lots of options and the food was served quickly.

I hope that Greenbelters will come back to the Café. Having it open on a Monday is such a treat.

Ginny Jones



PHOTO COURTESY JOANIE COHEN

Greenbelters Joanie Cohen, left, and Darelynn Fung take the News Review to see Jagged Little Pill on Broadway.

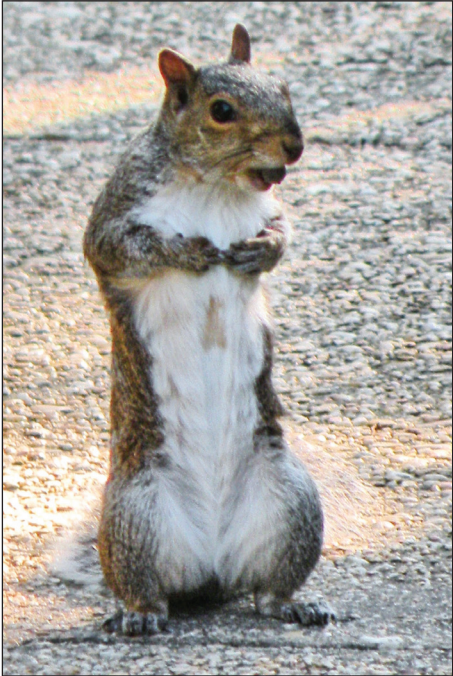


PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

At 1 Gardenway, the acorns were plentiful this autumn, so the neighborhood squirrel makes good use of the acorn.



PHOTO BY GLENN WILSON

A barred owl waits to greet visitors in the newly reopened Greenbelt Park.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Holiday Deadlines

Since both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Saturday this year, there will be no change to the News Review deadlines for the holidays.



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES

December 10th - 13th

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination OR negative PCR test (within 72 hours)
AND matching photo ID required for admission.
For more information call (301) 329-2034 or visit greenbelttheatre.org

THE HAND OF GOD (R)
(2021) (130 MINS)
(ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
FRI. 5:00 PM
SAT. 8:15 PM
SUN. 5:00 PM
MON. 2:00 PM

KING RICHARD (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2021) (138 MINS)
FRI. 8:15 PM
SAT. 5:00 PM
SUN. 1:45 PM (OC)
MON. 5:00 PM

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (NR) (1966)
(26 MINS)
A \$5 donation comes with mini popcorn! Register online to attend: greenbelttheatre.org
SAT. 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM
(AT BRADEN FIELD)



What did Santa' millennial helper do when he saw the snowman?



Look an elfie.

PETE REPERT

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

At the Library

Library hours are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Covid-19 Test Kits

Covid-19 test kits are available at all Prince George’s County libraries while supplies last. These tests are Abbott BinaxNOW AG At-Home Covid-19 Test Kits (two tests per kit). The Library will receive approximately 1,700 kits per week (subject to change) that will be available to the public at all open libraries until further notice. The supply at each location is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers are asked to limit themselves to one kit per person so that the supply can serve as many Prince Georgians as possible. The kits will be replenished on a weekly basis as supplies allow through the state of Maryland’s program.

Library@The SPACE

Suggested Library programs for viewing on the laptops while visiting The SPACE are: Café a las Cuatro, Kids Achieve Club, English Conversation Club and Crafternoons. Suggested services to access on Library laptops include: Mango Languages; Brainfuse JobNow; Brainfuse HelpNow, which offers live tutoring to students; and Spanish-language resources for children, such as Lectorum by Make Make. All resources are free with a library card, and The SPACE continues to offer free WiFi as part of a generous ongoing grant from an outside partner. In-person indoor programming will eventually be offered at The SPACE when Covid-19 conditions permit. Future programs will include monthly bilingual storytime sessions, STEM programs for kids and wellness programs for families.

Library Services

The Library offers unlimited browsing, computers for extendable one-hour sessions with no appointment needed, printing/scanning self-service, self-check-out, staff assistance at the circulation and information desks, book drop for returning items, free study rooms (five small, one group) available for two-hour sessions per day and meeting room reservations for a fee.

The Library also has passport services, on an appointment basis. Applicants must schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgmls.info/passport-services.

Safety Measures

PGCMLS continues to require face masks and physical distancing at its facilities until further notice, regardless of vaccination status. These additional library safety measures are available: plexiglass shields at service desks, hand sanitizer dispensers and single-use keyboard and mouse covers.

Call for Artists

The New Deal Café is looking for artists to participate in a group art show titled New Scene, an exploration of abstract and mixed-media art. The show will be on view during January and February in the Café. Send submissions to Artshows@freeartforall.org by Saturday, December 25 for consideration. There is no limit on the number of submissions.

Library Hosts Clinic, Rapid Test Kits

In conjunction with the County Health Department, the Greenbelt Library will host a second-dose Covid-19 vaccination clinic on Saturday, December 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pfizer vaccines will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with no appointments required, for residents age 5 and up, including booster doses for eligible adults.

Free Rapid Test Kits are available while supplies last. Call 240-455-5451 or email askalibrarian@pgcmls.info with questions.

Upcoming Blood Drives

As a result of low blood donor turnout in recent months, the Red Cross is heading into the holidays with its lowest blood supply in more than a decade at this time of year.

Appointments are no longer available for the blood drive hosted by Greenbelt Recreation at the Community Center on December 10.

The American Legion Post 136 is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, January 3. Multiple appointment times are available, but they fill up fast. Find the drive and sign up at redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.

Later in January, and further afield, blood drives will be held at the Cheverly and Glenarden Community Centers.

Shop With a Cop

The Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police Shop with a Cop will take place on Saturday, December 18 at the Target Store located in Beltway Plaza.

The program is funded through corporate sponsorship and community donations. Donations to fund this program are accepted by mail at: Greenbelt FOP, PO Box 94, Greenbelt, MD 20768 or by dropping them at the police station in an envelope marked Greenbelt FOP/Shop with a Cop. For further information, contact Sharnise Hawkins-Graham at 240-542-2138 or at shawkins-graham@greenbeltnmd.gov.

Tales and Traditions

Sunday, December 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Connecting Across Greenbelt and RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) will co-host a Zoom get-together to share traditions and memories.

All storytellers are asked to pre-register at <https://bit.ly/GBTales> (it is case sensitive, so use the capital letters). This will help make sure everyone will get enough time to share their tale as well as facilitate communication with participants. One need not register to attend.

Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com with questions. The Zoom link and further information will be shared via various community calendars and at connectingacrossgreenbelt.org.

Help GHI Work On Invasive Removal

Help fight invasive plants and plant native species. The GHI Woodlands Committee is hosting an invasive removal workday on Saturday, December 11 from 9 a.m. to noon. The mission is to remove invasive brambles and vines in preparation for creating a new propagation area for native trees and shrubs. Meet at the picnic table between 8 and 10 Courts Laurel Hill Road. Volunteers will work next to the blackberry patch at the woodland edge.

What to bring:

1. A face mask for when in proximity to others. All participants are required to socially distance as much as possible for their safety and that of others.
2. Clothes that cover the skin. Wear leather gloves and thick pants to protect against scratches.
3. Bug repellent, hand sanitizer, etc.
4. Tools and equipment will be provided, but bring extra pruners, loppers or a shovel to facilitate other volunteers’ involvement.

For more information, contact BryanBruns@yahoo.com.

Applications for Rent Help Due December 15

Prince George’s County is accepting new applications for rent relief through Wednesday, December 15 at 3 p.m. The county’s 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program will continue to review and process submitted applications after the application portal closes. The program helps eligible applicants with payment assistance for rent and utilities. Landlords may also apply on behalf of their tenants. To apply and for more information visit hcd.mypgc.us and click on “Emergency Rental Assistance Program.”

GIVES Quarterly Membership Meeting

GIVES (Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service) will hold its quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, December 18 from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all registered members a few days prior to the meeting.

At the meeting, participants will share the ways in which GIVES is modernizing by going digital. In this past year, GIVES has been given access to an online service scheduling program funded by a federal grant under the auspices of the Jewish Council on Aging of Montgomery County. The meeting agenda will include a showing of the new GIVES website, which can host an online membership application, members only section and easy e-news for communicating with members.

Anyone not a member of GIVES who wants to attend this meeting can email givesoffice@gmail.com with a request by Thursday, December 16 to receive a Zoom link.

Community Dialogue

On Sunday, December 12 from 1:30 to 3 p.m., Greenbelt Unplugged will host a community dialogue over Zoom. There will be an explanation and engaging in Bohm Dialogue, a method of exploring a topic that emphasizes listening and validating the contributions of all participants. The process is non-goal driven, not seeking an answer or conclusion, but rather openness to others’ perspective and challenging our own assumptions. The meeting ID is 869 1887 7769 and the passcode is 016110. To avoid typing errors, get a simple link to the meeting by sending an email to events@greenbeltunplugged.org.



North Pole Calling

Chat with Santa about the holidays from Tuesday, December 14 through Thursday, December 16 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Santa Claus, in cooperation with Greenbelt Recreation, calls children who are 10 years old and younger to chat about their holiday wishes. Parents can find the form to schedule a call from the Jolly Old Elf on the Special Events page in the Virtual Recreation Center on the city website (greenbeltnmd.gov).

Winter Session Rec Activity Guide

Greenbelt Recreation has published its 2022 Winter Activity Guide. View the guide by going to greenbeltnmd.gov/recreation and clicking on Recreation Classes. The guide includes information about the winter session classes offered by Greenbelt Recreation, along with a variety of free activities including art activities and gallery shows, Black History Month events and the annual Winter Lights Festival. Registration for Greenbelt residents began on November 29 and for nonresidents on Monday, December 6.

Porch Food Collection

Porch Greenbelt Food Collection (PGFC) is continuing to collect food in December. As a reminder, place donations in a box or bag labelled PORCH or RUAK on the front porch or other location that can be easily seen from the street by the volunteers who collect the donations. Make sure to check the expiration dates on all food items. The collection schedule is as follows: by 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 12 for Woodland Hills; by 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 12 at 1 to 8 Courts Ridge, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent and 1 to 2 Courts Westway; between 9 and 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 18 for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill; and between 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 19 for all of Boxwood Village.

Last Month


Porch Greenbelt reports that 442 pounds of food was donated by Boxwood Village friends in November. Thanks to all the Greenbelt residents who have made donations – they make an important difference in the community. “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one!” said Mother Teresa.

Volunteers who want to expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are welcome. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Porch Greenbelt, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Art at the New Deal Café This Month

There will be a reception on Sunday, December 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. for the new Art Shows at the New Deal Café, featuring local artists Raven Eyes Cagle and Lindsey Vance. There will be live music, food, drinks and a chance to meet and talk with the artists.

Both shows will be up now through Friday, December 31. Come by the New Deal Café to see some great local artwork. The event is free and open to the public. Proof of vaccination is required.






Greenbelt Access Television

Greenbelt Access Television Dec 10, Fri – Dec 16, Thu

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station		
7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	NEW • Utopia Film Festival 2021	Ecstasy & Death: Keats and Shelley in Rome
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	NEW • Accokeek v Walker Mill Middle
2pm	Music at the New Deal	NEW • Proverbs Reggae Band • DC Rootz
3pm	NEW • Utopia Film Festival 2021	Ecstasy & Death: Keats and Shelley in Rome
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	NEW • Accokeek v Walker Mill Middle
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	NEW • Utopia Film Festival 2021	Ecstasy & Death: Keats and Shelley in Rome
10pm	Music at the New Deal	NEW • Proverbs Reggae Band • DC Rootz
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming

Connect with GATE



www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.

Obituaries

Gabrielle Van Camp



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Gabrielle Van Camp

Gabrielle Van Camp died peacefully November 28, 2021, at the age of 98. She resided with her daughter and son-in-law in the 8400 block of Greenbelt Road.

Gabrielle was born August 7, 1923, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, to Joseph and Gabrielle (Montbriand) Proulx. She was a shipyard welder in Portland, Maine, during World War II, after which she moved to Washington, D.C. After a brief courtship she married Gordon Van Camp in October 1945. Over the years the couple welcomed four children into their home in Arlington, Va. She and her husband also cared for two foster daughters, Patricia and Shirley. Her children remember her as a mother who encouraged them to pursue their goals.

Gabrielle worked as a book-keeper. She was always busy with activities, serving as treasurer for a number of organizations, including her church in Arlington, and often volunteered at Meals on Wheels.

Gabrielle was accomplished at singing soprano and was a long-time member of the Arlington Presbyterian Church choir and the New Dominion Chorale, and

later of Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church choir in Greenbelt. She was a very active and dedicated member of the church her entire life. She loved singing and going to the opera. In retirement, she and her husband went on many cruises to Europe and elsewhere.

Gabrielle is survived by her children Diana Reiheld (Bill) of Mount Vernon, Ohio, Carol Waugh (Russell) of Greenbelt and Robert Van Camp (Lana) of Columbus, Ohio; her grandchildren Laura Van Camp of Charlottesville, Va., and Debra Van Camp of Columbus, Ohio; and brother Pierre Proulx (Lucille) of Ontario, Canada. She also leaves behind nieces Sylvie and Elaine and nephew Normand of Canada. Additionally, she leaves her sister-in-law Marguerite, nieces Sharon, Cathy and Barbara and nephew Bob of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and two foster daughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Van Camp, and her son, Richard Van Camp.

A memorial service will be announced in the coming months. In lieu of flowers, send donations to Mowatt Memorial UMC, 41 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Ronald Dean

Ronald O. Dean of Greenbelt died November 7, 2021, after battling multiple health issues. Ron has been a resident of the Windsor Green area for more than 40 years.

He served with the U.S. Air Force, piloting the C-123 and KC-135, which helped fulfill his great love of flying. After completing his military obligation, including three combat tours in Vietnam, he left the service with the rank of captain. He worked for Grandfather's Trucking Co.



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Ronald Dean

until securing a position with AT&T, then Verizon, from which he retired. Afterward Ron went on to become a consultant at NSA. He also taught flying.

Ron was a graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the University of Maryland with a B.S. in psychology, a B.S. in business and management and a master's in business administration.

He was an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, University College, teaching UNIX for over 20 years. When questioned about receiving complimentary letters and recommendations for awards, Ron replied he just loved teaching and gave his students his phone number so they could call him with questions or problems.

Ron was a member of the Greenbelt American Legion, St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church, Distinguished Flying Cross Society and was on the board of the Jeane Dixon (who was also a close friend) Children to Children Foundation.

He leaves behind his loving companion Susan Jankowski, his twin brother Robert, many cousins and many good friends and neighbors.

Leave the Leaves to Protect Wintering Pollinator Insects

by Xochitl Camille Zamora-Thompson

Insects are the beating heart of our food web, so pollinators – most of whom are insects – are absolutely vital not only to maintaining the health of our ecosystems, but to the existence of life on Earth as we know it. Given the critical importance of pollinators, how can we in Greenbelt ensure the health and biodiversity of our insect pollinator populations?

Doug Tallamy, professor of agriculture and natural resources in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of five books on ecology and conservation landscaping, is one of the leading authorities on the ecology of insects, conserving biodiversity and plant-insect interactions. His work has determined that only 5 percent of native plant genera are host to about 75 percent of caterpillar species. Native oaks are the powerhouses of these keystone species, currently known to support more than 900 species of Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies). Oaks are followed by trees in the plum genus and by willows, birches, poplars, maples, alders, hickories, elms, pines, basswood, hawthorns, ash and beech – in descending order of number of moth and butterfly species supported.

Leaf litter provides a protective blanket for the soil, and the almost uncountable number of creatures that live in the soil,

while maintaining the moisture level and eventually returning nutrients to the soil as leaves decay. Caterpillars that grow on keystone trees eventually fall from them and either tunnel underground or spin a cocoon in the leaf litter surrounding the tree to finish their development. Unfortunately, most people have been taught to rake, vacuum or otherwise destroy this life-giving leaf litter as part of their fall yard cleanup, unwittingly killing many of the caterpillars that are critical in the local food web.

So, this fall, leave fallen leaves in place under your keystone species trees to protect the soil and overwintering insects. There's no need to rake or blow those leaves, shred them or even mulch those areas now. Be a good neighbor to overwintering pollinators by leaving the leaves in place. If not sure whether a tree is a keystone species, use a free plant identification app, such as iNaturalist or Seek. This winter, make a plan to create pollinator- and gardener-friendly zones under keystone trees by replacing any hard-packed lawn and planting native groundcovers. Save on annual autumnal chores and invest in the long-term health of all our neighbors, from insects to amphibians and reptiles, from birds to people.

Xochitl Camille Zamora-Thompson is the co-chair of the GreenACES Pollinator Team.

“The light of a good character surpasseth the light of the sun ... The glory and the upliftment of the world must needs depend upon it.” – Bahá'u'lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410
Reverend Rivera, Pastor
In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
December 18, 5-9. Winter Wonderland.



Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



December 12 10 a.m.
The Joy of Music

PBUUC Choir with Worship Associate John Barr

On this third Sunday of Advent, we turn to Joy with a service of music. We'll hear from Paint Branch instrumentalists and singers – soloists, duets, and the Paint Branch choir. Join us for this time of connecting with joy through the music of this congregation.

And, as always, if you have a joy or sorrow that you would like shared aloud during this service, please email it to joys-sorrows@pbuuc.org by noon on Friday.



**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
of GREENBELT**

During the pandemic, we
gather VIRTUALLY for
Liturgy of the Word
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME!
For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



The Bible Says...

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, “God with us.”
Matthew 1:23



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church UCC

Whoever you are
and wherever you are
on your
Spiritual journey,
you are welcome HERE.

**This Sunday's Sermon
on Facebook Live at 10:15**
**Third Sunday of Advent
Look Forward**

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live
streamed
on
Facebook
and
available
on our
YouTube
page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org





Our sympathies to Gabrielle Van Camp’s family, friends and fellow parishioners. Van Camp, a soprano in the Mowatt Memorial UMC choir, died on November 28.

Condolences to family and friends of longtime Windsor Green resident Ronald Dean who died November 7.

We were saddened to learn of the death on December 6 of Mary Xakallis Chapman, at the age of 88. She lived for many years at 6-B Ridge Road. More recently, she lived at Regency Park, in Gambrills, near her son and his family.

The News Review is saddened to learn that William “Bill” Gailles, the founder of Gailles’ Violin Shop, died on November 12, after many months of declining health. Bill’s life and legacy was celebrated on December 6 at the Samuel Riggs Alumni Center in College Park. For those wondering about the future of Gailles’ Violin Shop, Inc. there is a strong, talented, knowledgeable team of people who have trained for many years under Bill’s tutelage. “He would want us to keep the shop going to continue to serve clients and the community. So that is what we will do.”

Congratulations to Springhill Lake Elementary School faculty and staff on the earning of a national award for exceptional student achievement.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

City Notes

For the Winter Lights Festival, Public Works hung festival lights, installed signage and infrastructure, and decorated trees at the Municipal Building and the Community Center. The Art and Craft Fair happened in person, facilitated by Arts staff and hosted by the Youth and Community Centers.

The Code Enforcement Officer attended court, winning a judgment for the city regarding a trash issue at the Jane Apartments.

The Animal Shelter houses three dogs and eight cats, including an abandoned cat rescued by Animal Control and now available for adoption.

Refuse/Recycling collected 28.22 tons of refuse and 12.62 tons of recyclables.

At the Sustainability/Environmental clean-up event at Indian Creek, 32 volunteers removed 35 bags of litter.

Therapeutic Recreation staff facilitated Golden Age and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. Meal packages were delivered to 16 home-bound seniors.

Museum and Planning staff collaborated on wayside panels for the Mother and Child statue and the Toaping Castle site.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW
Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636
No special equipment needed



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 13, 2021 at 8:00pm

ORGANIZATION
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Consent Agenda - (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations
- Recognition of former Council Members Leta M. Mach and Edward V. J. Putens
Petitions and Requests
*** Minutes of Council Meetings**
Suggested Action:
* Regular Meeting, October 11, 2021
* Regular Meeting, October 25, 2021
* Charter Meeting, November 8, 2021
* Regular Meeting, November 22, 2021
* Interview, October 6, 2021
* Work Session, October 6, 2021
* Work Session, October 27, 2021
* Closed Session, October 27, 2021
Statement for the Record - Closed Session, August 10, 2021
Statement for the Record - Closed Session, August 24, 2021
Statement for the Record - Closed Session, November 11, 2021

Administrative Reports
*** Committee Reports**
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report 2021-04 (City of Greenbelt Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals)
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report 2021-05 (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals Re: Municipal Vehicles and Portable Equipment)

LEGISLATION
- Resolution to negotiate the purchase and installation of construction services for the Buddy Attick Park Parking Lot Reconstruction Project as outlined in the request for proposals from E&R Services, Inc. at a lump sum cost of \$610,744.11, plus a negotiated rate of \$100.00 per square yard for additional asphalt base repair if deemed needed.- 2nd Reading, Adoption
- Police Reform Procedures for the Greenbelt Police Department - 1st Reading
- A Resolution to negotiate the purchase of consulting planning and engineering services from Dewberry for the WMATA Trail Project Project at a cost to exceed \$10,000- 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS
- Pickleball Amenities - Staff Recommendation
- ARPA Immediate Funding: Additional Rental Assistance
- Legislative Dinner
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Employee Special Holiday
* Appointment of Council Members to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board and Policy Committees
* Liaison and Board and Committee Assignments

MEETINGS
In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 13-17

Wednesday, December 15 at 7:30pm, **PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY MEETING**, *On the Agenda: Call to order, Agenda Approval, Approve November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes, Council Liaison Update, New Business, Old Business, Recreation Department Update, Administration Report*

Wednesday, December 15 at 8:00pm, **WORK SESSION – GHI/WSSC**, *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and streaming at greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv*

Thursday, December 16 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY MEETING**, *On the Agenda: Welcome, Introductions, Community Pledge, Approval of Minutes, Discussion re: proposed City Council Police Reform Resolution*

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov

FISCAL YEAR 2023 RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS & RECOGNITION
GROUP POLICY AND INFORMATION GUIDE
Available Online at greenbeltmd.gov
For more information, call 240-542-2196 or email cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov

★★★★★
DECEMBER DAYS
A VIDEO CELEBRATION OF ACTIVITIES AND TRADITIONS,
FEATURING FUN THINGS TO LEARN, MAKE, AND DO

DECEMBER DAYS
A holiday sampler series highlighting a delightful variety of topics and the vibrant diversity of Greenbelt.
Watch the December Days video series on:
greenbeltmd.gov/recreation
Greenbelt Recreation Facebook
City of Greenbelt Facebook
Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) on Verizon FiOS 19, Comcast 77, and greenbeltaccessstv.org

DECEMBER FREE HOLIDAY FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION
Monday, December 20
1 – 4 PM
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Greenbelt, MD
Registration due Monday, December 6, 5:00pm
Register at <https://forms.gle/mbVFWZXbX9yvP1Kc6> or call 240-542-2033

Electronics, Styrofoam & Paint Recycling
Saturday, January 22, 2022
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent
NO Alkaline Batteries or Tube TVs
\$5 per paint container
Questions? Call 301-474-8004

GREENBELT JURIED ART AND CRAFT FAIR
Shop online:
Now thru December 19
Housewares, clothing and accessories, books, toys and more - direct from local makers!
www.greenbeltmd.gov/craft

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301-474-8000

WINTER 2022 ACTIVITY GUIDE
Now Available Online
Register at <https://bit.ly/3o6r0A1>
Classes begin the week of January 3, 2022

NORTH POLE CALLING
Chat with Santa about the holidays!
Tues. Dec 14 - Thurs. Dec, 16
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Parents can mail the form to 25 Crescent Rd or email to cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov
301-397-2200
greenbeltmd.gov/recreation

GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT
Starts on Wednesday, January 12
Free services offered:
Diapers, formula, baby accessories monthly; baby wellness nursing assessment; baby milestone progress review; information/resource linkage; healthy eating education
This program is available to:
- Families living in the city limits of Greenbelt
- Children ages newborn to 3 years old
- Children who wear diapers or pull-ups
To register, call 240-542-2019 or email kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov

GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN!
Classes for children and adults! Fitness, Art, Swimming, Dance, Yoga, Ceramics, & More...

Check out our Winter 2021 Activity Guide for gift ideas or call Greenbelt Recreation at 301-397-2200

greenbeltmd.gov/recreation

DECEMBER FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION
Thursday, December 16
1:00pm–3:00pm
Greenbelt Community Center

CRAFT continued from page 1

modeled after the trans flag and LGBTQ flag. I wanted to give everyone a chance to show their pride with my work,” said Van Pelt. Proceeds from sales go to the American Civil Liberties Union and to helping immigrants. Her art draws inspiration from nature and she loves using vibrant color. When people look at her art, she says she hopes they feel the joy of color and resonate with the message of the art. Although her art is political, she wants everyone to feel like they can wear her work. “I kind of feel like one side of the political spectrum has taken over the American flag. I wanted to make some flag art to say that this is everybody’s flag,” said Van Pelt. “So, I made these to give people a chance to enjoy our beautiful flag.”

Glass was not the only medium on display at this year’s show.

Martina Sestakova brought her collection of scarves to the show. She first learned about fabric making in college and eventually started making textiles. Sestakova emphasized the importance of the emotion that comes from her work. “The name of my company is the Czech word for joy, Radost. So, what I want you to see is joy and texture and ideas,” she said. Her work is inspired by what she called specific life situations. “I have scarves inspired by travel, being together with family, so the scarves are life inspired.” Sestakova also mentioned that her love of art was what helped her get through the Covid-19 pandemic. She said, “I find art really healing. It’s just so fun to sit down and create something that hasn’t existed before.”

Multiple jewelry makers showed off their beautiful designs. One of these vendors was Nancy DeMulder, who has been making jewelry since 1990. She displayed several different pieces showcasing a wide variety of techniques and skills, while also teaching shoppers about what went into each earring and necklace. DeMulder made jewelry using fossils from around the area that she had found and repurposed into beautiful pieces.

Art at the fair went beyond the visual medium, showcasing vendors of edible art. Devyn Kiszewski was selling her brand of Argentinian spice blends. Along with her husband, a chef from Argentina, the two own Nativo and say their spices are art. “I think any culinary experience can be art,” said Kiszewski. “The action of crafting these flavor profiles is certainly considered art and I’m really proud that we’re able to take the creativity and knowledge we have to create these combinations so that other people can create magic in their own kitchen.”

Shoppers loved the wide variety of beautifully crafted pieces of art and handmade wares and especially enjoyed the community coming together in person after shopping virtually last year due to the pandemic. This year’s show featured over 70 artisans using a hybrid model where merchandise was available both online and in person. “Seeing local artists showing off their work and the excitement around the community and its art was truly



Artists and the admiring public flock to the Greenbelt Art and Craft Fair which was spread out between the Community Center and the Youth Center on December 4 and 5.

- Photos by Glenn Harris



Greenbelt Pottery Group features ten artists this year, all of whom work in the ceramic studios in the Greenbelt Community Center. Ceramic artists are from left, Cathy Hoover Groen, Lorraine Aldridge-Ey, Judy Goldberg-Strassler, Vejune Svtelis, Lola Skolnik and Jan Morrow; not pictured, Peter Holden, Heidi Olson, Debra Suarez and Lisa Billingsley. Online sales continue until December 19 at www.greenbeltdm.gov/craft.

beautiful. I am glad that I got to experience and shop at this great fair and show my support to my neighbors,” said Chloe Childs, a shopper from College Park. *Matt Leviss is a journalism student at University of Maryland reporting for the News Review.*

Dems to Hear Immigration Lawyer, Install New Board

by Pat Wickersty and Konrad Herling

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club features a speaker, Jill Marie Bussey, on the challenges of immigration at its meeting on Friday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. To receive the link, visit the club’s webpage at roosevelclub.com.

With over 20 years in immigration law, Bussey applies legal analysis, experience and strategic thinking to immigration law and policy challenges.

Bussey began her legal career as an immigration paralegal and has a post-graduate certificate in legal assistant studies from George Washington University. She went on to pursue her law degree, graduating cum laude with a juris doctor with a concen-

tration in business law from the University of Baltimore School of Law. Bussey has been practicing law since 2004 and is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

As an immigration lawyer, Bussey is a passionate and tenacious advocate and a community leader who serves as the director of public policy at the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Additionally, the club’s new board of directors, elected at its November 19 meeting, will be installed by Delegate Nicole Williams. To read more about the speaker and the organization’s new board, go to roosevelclub.com or call 301-345-9369.

Let it Snow, Let it Snow

Get a **Holiday Loan** up to **\$5,000** for **12** months with rates as low as **5.0% APR***

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates as low as 5% for up to 12 months on new personal loans. For example: 5% APR would equal a payment of \$85.62 per \$1000.00 borrowed for 12 months. Rate based on credit qualifications and other restrictions apply. Additional rates and terms are available. Rate and terms subject to change. Membership eligibility required. Federally insured by the NCUA.

Greenbelt
Federal Credit Union

Greenbelt
CO-OP
Supermarket Pharmacy

MAKE CO-OP YOUR GO TO STORE FOR HOLIDAY BAKING!

Something for Everyone!

www.greenbelt.coop

Co-op has Seasonal Drinks & Comfort Meals at New Deal Café

Warm Apple Cider

Filling Soups & Chili

Pumpkin Spice Latte

Opens: Mon.-Sat. 8 am & Sun. 9 am. Live music Tues., Fri., & Sat. nights in Dec.

Council Focuses on Job Growth, Office Vacancies, Child Care

by Matthew Arbach

The county’s Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is committed to the dual priorities of growing the county’s job base and commercial tax base. On Wednesday, November 10, EDC representatives, CEO David Iannucci and Director of Commercial Development Larry Hentz, met with the Greenbelt City Council at their first worksession as a newly elected body. Council was updated on the county’s economic health, Greenbelt’s specific economic issues and its part in the county’s economy as a whole. The effects from Covid-19 continue to plague many businesses of all types and sizes. Yet, recent progress has been made in the areas of job growth and increased county revenues.

Iannucci began with a brief summation of the county situation. Collected real property taxes have risen from 28 percent to 31 percent, a significant amount considering the county’s multi-billion-dollar economy. After the county’s number one status for greatest job growth in the state from 2014 to 2019, 2020 saw the loss of 31,000 jobs. Based on the latest data from 2020, Iannucci estimated that 70 to 80 percent of those jobs have been recovered. Most of the jobs lost were lower income, with a preponderance of these losses among people of color and women. White collar jobs also experienced some losses as well. Iannucci speculated that 10 percent of restaurants have closed for good, down from the initial estimate of 40 percent, possibly due to assistance from federal relief funds. Unemployment stands at 7.8 percent, a rise from about 4 percent.

While many industries, especially restaurants and hospitality, have suffered, one industry that is booming is the logistics/fulfillment sector, or delivery goods. Amazon alone has six centers in the county, with dozens of other companies clamoring for space to build warehouses.

Office vacancy remains a thorny and troubling trend, with the huge rise in teleworking. Washington, D.C., alone has a 32-percent vacancy rate. Some regional office space may transition to some kind of residential development. Iannucci could not predict how this trend will advance and added that it is a very important issue that the EDC is trying to address. According to Iannucci, the Federal Government’s General Services Administration (GSA) is now in the process of consolidating federal workers into already fully occupied facilities, made possible by increased teleworking. A problem the EDC is looking at is the fact that 60 percent of county residents commute out of the county for work. He said that the EDC would be happy to help Greenbelt in any way to better market office space in the city.

The EDC, in conjunction with other county agencies like Employ Prince George’s and Experience Prince George’s County, has administered \$750,000 in grants to local businesses. EDC has also administered millions of county funds to bolster childcare facilities, a necessary aid in getting families back to work.

EDC has been actively sup-

porting businesses with: how to create a more effective online presence, helping businesses find advantageous locations, how to adapt to a new economic reality and functioning as a conduit for new restaurant businesses with meeting county and state Health Department’s requirements.

Iannucci spoke about the massive worker shortage nationwide. Low-wage earner resignations, difficult working conditions and an increase in job openings vs. available workers were cited as contributing to the issue. Restaurant servers, for example, often report that they are paid very low wages and are expected to get by on tips, which can be an unsteady

source of income.

The EDC is still pressing for relocation of the proposed new FBI headquarters to Prince George’s County at the Greenbelt Metro Station site. This site offers a large, open space to build on and provides access to mass transportation and plenty of parking. New management at the GSA may offer an opportunity to revisit the idea.

Iannucci was grateful for the chance to meet with council and said that while there may be disagreements on means, both the EDC and the city share the same goal of bolstering Greenbelt jobs and revenues.

Area Landlords Must Tell Council of Eviction Plans

by Cathie Meetre

On Saturday, November 20, the City of Greenbelt circulated a notice to Greenbelt landlords (all those with rental licenses in the city). The email notified them of the Eviction Notice Ordinance, adopted by council on October 11, which requires landlords/property managers to notify the city within three days of filing a notice of complaint with the district court involving an eviction.

The notice also provided a copy of the ordinance and flyers in Spanish and English providing information for tenants and landlords about American Rescue Plan financial assistance up to

\$10,000 that may be available to them through Greenbelt CARES. The notice went out to over 400 landlords, many of whom rent out only one or two apartments within local condominium communities.

The intent of the notice is to give the city warning of the intended legal action in order to identify those potentially in need of assistance, thus enabling CARES to reach out to the affected individuals. Additional information may be found at greenbeltnmd.gov/Home/Components/News/News/258/16.

Mishkan Torah Synagogue Celebrates Hanukkah

by Karen Knee

Greenbelt’s Mishkan Torah synagogue held an in-person Hanukkah celebration on the evening of Wednesday, December 1, the fourth night of Hanukkah. Attendees lit the Hanukkah candles with traditional blessings and then participated in a variety of festive activities: reading Hanukkah stories, making candles out of beeswax, a guitar sing-a-long, Israeli folk dancing and watching music videos for some modern Hanukkah classics like Daveed Diggs’s Puppy for Hanukkah. They also enjoyed sufganiot (Israeli-style jelly donuts), an annual holiday specialty, from the Kosher Pastry Oven in Silver Spring.

The event was organized and led by parents from the syna-

agogue’s Hebrew school program, the Karp Family School. The school holds classes on Hebrew language and Jewish religion, ethics and culture on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings for children from kindergarten through eighth grade. After meeting exclusively on Zoom from March 2020 through May 2021, the Karp Family School has resumed in-person classes and events this fall. The Hanukkah celebration was the school’s first indoor social event since before the pandemic.

For more information about classes and programs offered by Mishkan Torah, visit the website, mishkantorah.org, or email membership@mishkantorah.org.



PHOTO BY JODI COHEN

Karp Family School students Maggie Brown, left, and Alia Bolden make Hanukkah candles out of beeswax.



Ultimate Christmas Party

You are invited!



Hosted by: Greenbelt Baptist Church

Where: 101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770


When: Saturday, December 18th from 1:00-3:00PM

Phone: greenbeltbaptistchurchoffice@gmail.com

Note to Parents: Your child is invited to attend a fun, interactive Christmas party sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship*, a Bible-centered ministry. All Teachers and helpers have been trained and screened to ensure your child’s safety. Parents are welcome to attend!

Visit ChristmasAcrossAmerica.com for more information.





PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meetings of the GHI & GDC Board of Directors on December 16, 2021

A. GHI Closed Meeting – begins at 7:00 p.m. (closed to visitors and members)

- Approve Minutes of the Closed Meeting Held on November 4, 2021
- Approve Minutes of the Closed Meeting Held on November 18, 2021
- Approve Minutes of the Informal Complaint Hearing Held on November 22, 2021
- Contract for 2022 Property and Business Owner's Insurance Coverage - 1st reading
- Contract for Repairs to a GHI Unit - 1st reading
- Discuss Member Complaint Issues
- Discuss Member Financial Issues

B. GDC Open Meeting begins at 7.45 p.m. (open to visitors and members)

- Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on November 4, 2021
- Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on November 18, 2021
- Review 2021 3rd Quarter Financial Statements


C. GHI Open Meeting after the GDC meeting (open to visitors and members)

- Statement of Closed Meeting Held on December 16, 2021
- Approval of Addendum for Trust Ownership and Trustee’s Affidavit for a GHI Unit
- Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on November 4, 2021
- Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on November 18, 2021
- Review 2021 3rd Quarter Financial Statements
- Review the Permit Task Force's Final Report
- Review Proposed Recreational Vehicle/Boat Lot Regulations
- Proposal to Hire a Technical Writer to Update the GHI Member Handbook
- Floating Holidays for Staff in 2022
- Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on January 6, 2022

To deter hacking, GHI requires persons who wish to attend the GDC and GHI Open meetings on December 16, 2021, to register in advance by accessing the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/tJFoduGtri0rGtUflE9-Asc9_W-Krj1Kas53

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



To request a sign language interpreter for a Board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members

For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop

Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Roosevelt Center is bedecked for the holidays.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

Crowne Plaza Hotel Sets Its Sights on Greenbelt Success

by Cathie Meetre

In 2019, almost without fanfare, the originally Hilton and latterly Marriott hotel property on Ivy Lane, which had been purchased in 2018, was rebranded as a Crowne Plaza – though the timing was probably the worst nightmare of a hospitality company: the advent of Covid-19. Its new owners, not to be quailed by a mere global travel hiatus, shut down the hotel in 2020 and used the opportunity to invest in refurbishing the property, taking advantage of the fact that extensive renovations are clearly much more easily achieved when there are no guests gumming things up.

As the world expands to traveling again, the hotel has been ramping up and will fully reopen in early 2022. Though the hotel is currently open for accommodations and services, including food and beverages for meetings, the restaurant is not now open to the public for lunch and dinner.

Global Point of View

Anyone would be justified in thinking the hotel was an international destination resort given its ownership and management. Salter Brothers is the investment company that owns the property. Headquartered in Australia, it owns multiple hotel and residential properties in Australia and the U.S. and provides private equity funding for a variety of enterprises beyond hospitality. Its hotels are flagship properties in major cities and include hotels carrying the Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn and Intercontinental brands.

The hotel management company, Valor, is also global in its outlook. It manages hotels in the Middle East, Africa, the U.S. and Europe and has offices in the U.S. and U.K. so the manage-



Tugwell's Pub is ready to pull a pint in Crowne Plaza hotel.

PHOTO COURTESY CROWNE PLAZA

ment team is no raw recruit to the business of international-scale hospitality.

Crowne Plaza's Director of Sales and Marketing Linda Botts is also internationally flavored. Hailing from the U.K., she had been for several years in a similar position in Seattle and was persuaded to move to this area to coordinate the reopening of the hotel – trading winter gloom for steamy summers. She is enthusiastic about the refurbishment and excited to see things move finally forward. Her optimism is fueled by bookings already in hand for visiting football teams playing the University of Maryland and other groups looking for a venue with good transportation options and proximity to major local institutions.

Recruitment

With the opening of the restaurants and other facilities planned early in the new year, Botts anticipates a wave of hiring and has already contacted both this newspaper and Franklin Park management to assist in ob-

taining candidates from the local area for a variety of hospitality positions and shifts (look out for ads coming shortly). She is hopeful that local residents who have lost their employment during the pandemic will be able to find rewarding new work close by at Crowne Plaza and notes that the pay and benefits offered by Valor are exceptional.

Local Perks

Botts also anticipates significant benefits to the community from the hotel's policies. It's the only full-service hotel in Greenbelt and she sees it as a natural nearby location for family celebrations, weddings and those out-of-town guests who overflow our mostly modestly-sized homes. She plans special rates for stays booked by local residents and will implement numerous incentives to dine, including seasonal festivities and happy hours in the recently refurbished but still New-Deal-referenced Tugwell's Public House.



Legion Post 136 Meeting Opens With Ribs, Much Appreciation

by Butch Hicks

The Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 works with a number of local businesses, church groups and other veterans organizations supporting community charities and veterans advancement programs. Mission BBQ, a local restaurant, is an example of the Post's affiliation with a Greenbelt business that is supportive of veterans and first responders.

Thanks to the generosity of Mission BBQ, at a recent Post monthly meeting Legionnaires, Auxiliary Unit members and community guests were sporting sauce-smearied smiles while feasting on delectable dishes including the restaurant's signature ribs. According to several feast participants, the BBQ treats and associated side dishes lent a more cordial overtone to the meeting's agenda.

George Thomas, general manager of Mission BBQ, used the Post's monthly meeting as an opportunity to thank American Legion Post 136 for its community and veteran support programs. Post Commander Mike Moore said the Post and Mission BBQ had collaborated on various veterans and community activities since the restaurant opened in Greenbelt.

Moore said Mission BBQ is

not just a successful Greenbelt business, it is representative of a corporation with a theme of service to active-duty veterans and the firefighters, police and medical personnel who serve the community. "We have maintained a continuous association with Mission BBQ," said Moore. "They are a valued and reliable partner in our community and their generosity serving our Post is greatly appreciated."

Thomas invites Greenbelters to stop by Mission BBQ to enjoy the food and to see the walls lined with images of first responders and military organizations. "At noon we honor the Stars and Stripes with the National Anthem," he said. "We do it all not because we have to, but because we want to."

The Bus

Seniors, Children with School ID
and Customers with
Disabilities **RIDE FREE**



If you are
reading this
so are your
next
customers.
\$40 and up

www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

The format and timing of the information provided to the News Review is currently under discussion and we anticipate additional changes in its presentation over the next few weeks.

Significant Events

Robbery: On November 30 at approximately 6:28 p.m., officers responded to reports of an armed citizen robbery in the 9100 block of Edmonston Court. The man suspected in this crime is described as approximately 6 feet tall, 180 pounds, wearing a black ski mask, red sweater and black pants. He was armed with a small, black firearm.

Carjacking: On November 30 at approximately 8:50 p.m., officers responded to reports of an armed carjacking in the 6100 block of Greenbelt Road. Both carjackers were armed with handguns. One was wearing a black hat, tan shirt and light-blue jeans, the other wore a black shirt. They took the man’s vehicle, a brown 2017 Toyota Highlander with Maryland tag 6DE9216.

On December 5, Seat Pleasant Police located the brown Toyota Highlander taken during the incident above. Officers conducted a car stop and three juvenile occupants were taken into custody. During the stop, officers located a firearm matching the description of the firearm used during the carjacking. The Greenbelt Police Department’s Criminal Investigations Unit responded to the scene and transported the juveniles to the Greenbelt Police Station for processing. They will be charged with armed carjacking, motor vehicle theft/unlawful taking and handgun on person.

Assault

Two assaults were reported on December 5, one in the 5900 block of Springhill Drive at 11:54 a.m. and one at 12:41 p.m. in the 6100 block of Breezewood Terrace.

Cutting

A report of a cutting incident was received on December 3 in the 5800 block of Cherrywood Terrace.

Fraud

Four instances of fraud were reported, all in the central area of the city. They took place on December 1 in the 1 Court of Research, December 2 in the 30 Court of Ridge, December 4 in the 550 block of Crescent Road and December 5 in the 100 block of Westway.

Carjacking

A carjacking was reported in the 6100 block of Greenbelt Road on November 30. See the significant event above.

Robbery

Two robberies were reported, one in the 9100 Block of Ed-

monston Court on November 30 and another in the 5700 block of Greenbelt Metro Drive on December 2.

Shooting

A shooting was reported on December 2 in the 6200 block of Breezewood Court.

Shoplifting

A shoplifting incident was reported in the 7600 block of Greenbelt Road on December 5.

Stolen Vehicles

Four vehicles were reported stolen. Two were taken on November 29 and 30 from the 7200 block of Morrison Drive and the others on December 1 and 5 from the 7600 block of Greenbelt Road and the 9100 block of Springhill Lane.

Theft from Auto

Theft from vehicles was reported on five occasions. Two reports came in on November 30 from 5800 Cherrywood Lane and the 7800 block of Mandan Road. Additional incidents were reported on December 1, 4 and 5 from the 1 Court of Gardenway, the 7200 block of Hanover Drive and the 5800 block of Cherrywood Lane.

Theft

Eleven thefts were reported during the week with incidents on November 29 in the 6000 block of Greenbelt Road and on November 30 in the 5900 block of Cherrywood Lane and the 7600 block of Greenbelt Road. December 1 saw two incidents in the 200 block of Lakeside Drive and the 6200 block of Springhill Drive. Two incidents also occurred on December 3 in the 5800 block of Cherrywood Lane and the 7400 block of Greenway Center Drive, while two more incidents were reported on December 5 in the 7200 block of Hanover Drive and the 7500 block of Greenbelt Road.

Vandalism

Eight incidents of vandalism were reported, one on December 1 on Springhill Court, three on December 1 in the 9100 block of Springhill Lane, the 7900 block of Mandan Road and the 9100 block of Springhill Lane. The 1 Court of Research Road was vandalized on December 3 and two incidents were reported on December 4 in the 10 block of Crescent and at 135 Crescent. December 5 saw vandalism activity in the 6200 block of Springhill Court.



Police Reform Redraft Answers Most Questions of Disagreement

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council convened a worksession on December 1 to reevaluate language in a police reform resolution presented at the November 22 council meeting. Itself based upon language created at the November 15 worksession, the resolution was drafted by Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers and Assistant City Manager Timothy George. While council was largely satisfied with these efforts, several resolution items were deemed problematic and incomplete, requiring another review in order to prepare for the full consensus vote that council wanted on this issue. Bowers iterated that the intent was to use language that was clear and concise and not to make substantive changes to the meaning. In the end, most of the resolution items were left as presented or amended with slight wording changes, with only a few requiring more reworking. The plan is to vote on the newly drafted resolution at the council meeting on Monday, December 13 in order to have its contents added to the General Orders.

Recent Spike in Crime

Before this discussion, council felt compelled to address the recent spike in crime, specifically carjackings, armed robberies and shootings (last week alone, there were three carjackings, a robbery and a shooting) that occurred throughout the city. Bowers said that so far this year, 15 to 20 carjackings have been committed. Council emphasized the fear and frustration many residents are feeling about this. Bowers reassured them that a plan is in place to counter this situation. While he couldn’t share specific details, the plan includes increased patrols, shift deployments and a partnership with the county police department’s investigative team and carjacking task force. While there is a focus on hotspots, all parts of the city are receiving the usual level of police presence.

Council was keen on a comprehensive plan being developed. Bowers reported that recent arrests have been made in a robbery and carjacking case. Community forums are being planned throughout the city, beginning on

Tuesday, December 7 in Franklin Park, to update the public on the measures being used and to disseminate safety tips. While Bowers said that “we have all the tools we need” in this effort, his biggest deficit is a lack of full staffing. Recruiting and retaining officers remains a consistent problem for Greenbelt, but also nationwide.

Resolution Changes

In the resolution, among the large number of issues whose wording was found appropriate were: adding the definition of de-escalation; to “retrain, counsel, or if needed reassign” officers “likely to use excessive force”; anti-retaliation and whistleblower protections; allowance to record “police-civilian interactions so long as the person recording is acting lawfully and safely”; and “produce semiannual reports on traffic stops with data related to stop outcomes.”

Resolutions whose wording was slightly modified were: providing for “a specialist in law enforcement recruitment, promotion and retention to assist in improving the diversity of the department as soon as practical”; “ongoing training in de-escalation techniques and the awareness of the influence of bias, conscious or unconscious, in policing”; an “emphasis on the guardian policing model to protect and serve”; and, the retention length “of no more than one year after the date of a stop” for photos of those “stopped, but not charged with a criminal violation.”

The two resolutions whose language was changed significantly were: “modify the General Orders to allow the public to see disciplinary and internal affairs records, including complaints determined baseless, to comply with the Maryland MPJA laws effective October 1, 2021”; and, the resolution concerning body cameras, requiring constant working order before and during a patrol, with discipline, “up to and including discharge” if an officer “fails to adhere to these requirements.”

A second resolution, including new amendments to be drafted, will likely be created in the near future to address: banning the

use of no-knock warrants by Greenbelt (currently, the department does not have the ability to execute these warrants, that being the purview of the county and state, with the last one in Greenbelt carried out roughly seven years ago); determining the length of time for release of body camera footage (the department and most of council has deemed 10 working days a realistic deadline, with that possibly being expedited in a serious incident); and, the procedure on providing adequate information on court protocol or payment of a traffic citation (currently, the statewide citation has that included). Council was concerned about having Spanish translation readily available, among other things. Bowers cautioned that traffic stops cannot detain a person longer than legally allowed and are dangerous for the civilian and the officer.

Mayor Emmett Jordan remarked that a local delegate indicated that Greenbelt may have the power to have civilian oversight committees in the near future.

On the subject of officer diversity, Bowers said that of the 17 new recruits hired in the last 18 months, 82 percent are people of color.

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Effective January 1, 2022 the advertising rates will increase approximately 6 percent. This is the first increase since 2020 and is needed to offset increased costs.

The base price for display ads will increase to \$10.60.

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Volume discounts are also available. The full rate structure is available at greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

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PHOTO COURTESY PGOPS

UBTECH robot disinfects rooms in Prince George's County schools.

The Prince George's County Public Schools system has purchased 51 Adibot cleaning robots, which disinfect Covid-contaminated classrooms in about three minutes using ultraviolet light rather than chemicals. The Adi-

bot's hospital-grade UV-C technology inactivates 99.9 percent of all viruses, bacteria and harmful pathogens including Covid-19, influenza and MRSA, according to the manufacturer, UBTECH Robotics.

Watkins Park Festival Has New Entrance

The 2021 Winter Festival of Lights, an annual drive-through display at Watkins Regional Park, returns this year for its 35th year. New this year is the entrance to the three miles of whimsical lights and displays, featuring 2.5 million LED lights throughout the park and a giant 54-foot LED musical tree. The newly created entrance is now located on Route 202/Largo Road, across the street from the Riverdale Baptist Church, located at 1133 Largo Road, in Upper Marlboro. The entrance on Route 193 will be closed.

The festival runs through Sunday, January 2, daily from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Admission fees are based on vehicle type and method of payment. Purchase tickets online in advance for a discount at pgparksdirect.com, searching for the keyword Festival under Ticketing.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.





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COUNCIL continued from page 1

along with expressing its concern about the reduction of funding for support of locally operated transit systems.

The city also expressed its strong opposition to a study of capacity improvements to MD 201 and U.S. 1, saying such changes would have significant negative impacts on wetlands north of Greenbelt as well as on Beltsville Agricultural Research Center property. The CTP does not allocate any funding to this project.

Legislation

Councilmember Judith Davis introduced for first reading a resolution to negotiate the purchase and installation of construction services for the Buddy Attick Park parking lot reconstruction project to E&R Services, Inc. at a lump sum cost of \$610,744 and an agreed upon unit cost of \$100 per square yard of base repair. The Advisory Committee on Trees has reviewed and supports the plan. The resolution will be considered for final adoption at the December 13 council meeting.

Petitions and Requests

Bill Orleans objected to the Ethics Commission's decision to only review the financial disclosure statements of the successful candidates for city council. He urged council to direct that all candidates' disclosure reports be reviewed.

Ed Fallon called for weekly reports on the number of people receiving eviction and foreclosure assistance from the city and a monthly report on the number of evictions in the city. He voiced concern that Franklin Park had recently evicted eight residents.

He referenced a News Review article that he said stated that Franklin Park would not evict anyone through the end of the year, however, that article actually said that "Franklin Park has no plans to evict 180 residents within the next week, month or remainder of the year."

Administrative Reports

Assistant City Manager Timothy George reported that the city has met with its contractor regarding closed captioning of its broadcasts. He expected to have a proposal later in the week and to have improved captioning in place within a few weeks.

Holiday Displays

Recreation Director Greg Varda confirmed that there would again be no public tree lighting ceremony although the Roosevelt Center tree would be lit and the craft show would occur the first weekend in December.

Proclamation

Mayor Emmett Jordan read a proclamation declaring November as America Recycles Month. Luisa Robles, the city's sustainability coordinator, talked about the city's efforts in recycling and pointed out that there now is a food scraps collection bin at the recycling center at Buddy Attick Park.

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Two Additions! Full bath with shower and tub on main level. Large fenced corner lot with deck and shed. Mini-split HVAC. Lots of space inside!

Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI townhome on corner lot. Large fenced back yard, back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

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Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome w/ hardwood flrs. throughout. Modern kitchen with stainless steel washer. Hardwood flooring on both levels.

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full master bedroom & dryer in separate room. Hardwood finished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Don't miss this one!

Full Attached Inlaw apartment 5 BR, 4 Bath home w/ full kitchen. Elevator to basement level. 2 Full kitchens, generator, fireplace & more.

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My Perspective

Documentary about Bonsai Winner at Utopia Film Festival

by Susan Harris



American and Japanese girls pose with a bonsai in a picture that was used to publicize Japan’s gift of the trees. Decades later, the American girl in the photo, Kathryn O’Sullivan, is a writer, screenwriter and professor.

Susan Harris is editor of *GreenbeltOnline.org*, where this article was originally published.

The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum opened in 1976 with a gift of 53 priceless bonsai trees from Japan to commemorate the U.S. Bicentennial. Some bonsai were several hundred years old and one had even survived the bombing of Hiroshima. Japan’s gesture harkens back to its donation of thousands of cherry trees for D.C.’s Tidal Basin back in 1912.

I learned from the museum’s website that “The American Bicentennial Celebration of Independence in 1976 ignited an international shower of gifts on the citizens of the United States.” So it’s not surprising that the Arboretum’s director at the time, Dr. John Creech, had the bright idea of asking Japan for the bonsai and working with the Nippon Bonsai Association to make that happen. He even persuaded the federal government to build a facility to display these fabulous trees, and then orchestrated their move with two governments on either side of the globe – no small feat, I’m sure.

The Film’s Origins

The documentary shows American and Japanese girls posed with a bonsai; the picture was used to publicize Japan’s gift of the trees. Decades later, the American girl in the photo, Kathryn O’Sullivan, is a writer, screenwriter and professor. Upon finding this photo, she and her filmmaker husband Paul Awad decided to make a documentary about the gift of bonsai to the U.S. that she played a small part in. That role had come about thanks to her father’s job as a public information officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Arboretum, and he was tasked with promoting the event.

The documentary, called *Bicentennial Bonsai: Emissaries of Peace*, includes rare interviews and archival footage, and mentions wabi sabi, which I had to look up. It’s “a world view centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection. The aesthetic is sometimes described as one of appreciating beauty that is imperfect, impermanent and incomplete in nature.” Sounds like

an attitude we could all use.

Greenbelt Connections

I saw the film when it screened last month at Greenbelt’s own Utopia Film Festival, now in its 17th year. It was natural for the filmmakers to enter Greenbelt’s festival because Kathryn’s family lived here at the time of the bonsai gift – at 17-F Ridge Road. The filmmakers returned to Greenbelt to attend the screening, along with Kathryn’s parents, and an audience member – Rebecca Waterworth – told us that her father had helped care for the trees when they were quarantined in Glenn Dale, before their final move to the Arboretum. A little bit of old home week.

Kathryn wrote to tell me that they love having their films screen at the Utopia Film Festival, saying, “They always do a wonderful job and it’s fun coming back to Greenbelt.” She also said she and Paul now live in Reston, which they chose because of her positive experience with another planned community – ours – and Reston is near enough to Northern Virginia Community College, where she teaches.

One more quick local note: Richard Olsen, current director of the National Arboretum, was interviewed several times in the documentary. He’s known to many Greenbelters for his family’s years in their GHI home on Woodland Way.

Filmmakers Awad and O’Sullivan spoke at a question-and-answer session after the movie. They said they were accompanied on their trip to Japan for filming the documentary by a staffer at the Arboretum, who introduced them to bonsai people there.

The film was a hit with the audience and won the Festival’s Utopian Visions Award for “The best work in any category which reflects Utopia’s belief in the value of cinema to help create a better world.”

Anyone who missed the screening may still have the chance to see it, since the filmmakers submitted it to PBS. Let’s hope it’s broadcast.



GRANITE continued from page 1

impressed that, “As you walk in, there is a mural of the days prior to its existence, as well as the Co-op grocery store, which is cool.” She also thought that “the medical offices below are going to be a huge hit! To have medical buildings in walking distance for the community again is huge!”

Visitors Ray and Lisa Zammuto also enjoyed the building. Lisa Zammuto remarked that it was bright, cheerful, well-designed and welcoming. Zammuto loved the little conference room with the large TV screen for Zoom meetings, stating it was “very thoughtfully put together.”

Quintessential Greenbelt

The Granite Building team formed around the desire to create from a deteriorating building an updated but still faithfully mid-century modern space for small businesses to rent close to home. Kash, who grew up, lives and works in Greenbelt, noted that it was a “Greenbelt-specific thing” – close to home, part of the community and perfectly located for all the amenities of Roosevelt Center. She also noted that the small size of many Greenbelt homes made long-term working at home a tight-fit challenge and that the Granite offices had the advantage of being almost home, but not actually. Kash describes it, tongue-in-cheek, as “a safe place to go to work and better than your dining room.”

Flexible Space

The workspaces themselves are small, but each has a locking door. A shared kitchen and reception area and bookable conference rooms provide additional resources. In the offices, much of the custom cabinetry from the original building’s examination rooms has been repurposed as storage. Partner David Fraunheim, a Greenbelter and interior designer, was responsible for an ambience that feels true to the original, yet has contemporary flair. His experience in designing for Greenbelt Homes Inc. homes and within Greenbelt – with the constant need for thoughtful design in small spaces and tight budgets – helped him create an economically executed and uncluttered concept that maximizes the utility of the space and picks up on the spare lines of the building itself. Kash describes the result as “modest but beautiful” and “hearkening back to the thoughtfulness of the original architecture.”

Full Occupancy

Kash explained that the building is already fully rented (almost entirely by Greenbelters) and there’s a waiting list, though not all the tenants have yet moved in. In fact, the only accommodations still available are measured in square inches – in a suite of post office boxes that offer other local businesses a prestigious Centerway address and a handy P.O. box within Roosevelt Center, as in days of yore.

Varied Tenants

The 22 tenants run the gamut from a lawyer to a textile conservator, a realtor, an interior designer (Fraunheim) and three writers (including Kash, herself a published author), most of whom are one-person operations. The lower floor formerly housed the offices of lawyer David Cross, who had apparently promised his wife he would retire when the building was sold (and stuck to



The Granite Building

- Photos by Michael Fraunheim



Kim Kash, co-owner of The Granite Building, sits in her new office as the building opens on December 4.



David Fraunheim, co-owner of The Granite Building, celebrates on December 4.

his word). Now, the perimeter offices (with windows) in the lower level are home to a nurse practitioner who is already taking patients, while some of the windowless interior spaces are the new home of the MakerSpace Tool Library.

Business Model

Asked about the business prospects of the building, Kash was down to earth. She said that the partners expect a good return on their investment and are on track to make a profit she described as “modest.” She points out that such a venture can’t be sustained without at least paying for itself and noted additional major expenditures they anticipate in the next few years – including a new roof and solar panels à la Co-op (Kash is a board member), new windows and the replacement of the remaining HVAC units (one was replaced during the renovation). Though they had hoped to get financing from the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, they were disappointed that the credit union’s rules constrained it, forc-

ing the group to turn to Harbor Bank in Baltimore.

Covid-19 and Progress

Asked what impact Covid-19 had inflicted on the project, Kash declared it a mixed bag. While supply chain issues slowed the delivery of some building components and delayed the opening by around two months, she thought the “working-from-home” pressure-cooker effect had provoked perhaps a more rapid filling of the spaces.

Outcomes

Kash said the partners in their LLC were delighted with the results and have been heartened by the positive response when people see the thought and care evident in the design. She was clearly buoyed by seeing Greenbelters respond so positively to the group’s blend of business savvy and historic preservation.

